

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [0007] on page 5 with the following:

[0007] When placed in a flowstream, such as 107 in Figure 1, i.e. when the tractor-trailer 100 is in forward motion, the airflow of the flowstream ideally separates off of the tractor 101 and completely reattaches downstream onto the trailer ~~101~~ 103.

As shown in Figure 2, however, airflow separating from the tractor 101 enters the gap 106 to form a recirculation zone defined by a vortical flow structure 110 which is similar to a vortical ring or an inverted-U shape. A stable vortical flow structure 110 (i.e. one which cannot be forced out of the gap) prevents the surrounding airflow of the flowstream from further entering the gap and thus redirects the surrounding airflow to reattach with the side of the trailer. An unsteadiness in the flow field surrounding the gap, however, can produce a pressure differential in a transverse direction across the gap which can destabilize the vortical flow structure 110 and increase aerodynamic drag. Figure 4 shows an example of a cross-flow stream 111 completely traversing an empty gap 106 from one side of the tractor-trailer to the other side, through opposing first and second open ends 123 and 124. In this extreme case, the vortical structures would be eliminated altogether by the cross-flow stream 111. However, even small amounts of cross-flow present a compromise in the ability of the vortical structure to prevent airflow from further entering the gap, and can thereby increase the aerodynamic drag on the tractor-trailer 100.

Please replace the paragraph [0032] on page 13 with the following:

[0032] In particular, Figure 9 shows an exemplary second baffle assembly having a multi-panel construction, such as a two-part vertical panel assembly 400. The assembly 400 has a first vertical panel 401 and a second vertical panel 402 operably connected to each other to automatically adjust the span of the assembly 400. The first vertical panel ~~801~~ 401 is hinged at 403 to the base surface 108 of the tractor 101, and the second vertical panel 402 is hinged at 404 to the front surface 109 of the trailer 103. Each of the vertical panels has a section 405 overlapping with each other for slidably connecting the panels to each other.